

people of this country have been well served by this dedicated public servant. He will be greatly missed by his friends at both the Corps and on Capitol Hill. The understanding and appreciation of the Corps of Engineers here in Congress will remain strong thanks to his many years of faithful service to the Nation.

REGARDING THE ACTUARIAL
VALUE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG
BENEFITS OFFERED TO MEDI-
CARE ELIGIBLE ENROLLEES BY
A PLAN UNDER FEDERAL EM-
PLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS
PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill designed for an important purpose—ensuring that the FEHBP continues to provide retired employees, who are eligible for Medicare, with the same prescription drug benefit that current, non-retired employees receive. There are thousands of Federal Employees in my district who have earned, and deserve, the prescription drug coverage they get under the FEHBP. In addition, this is an important example to set for the private sector to ensure that they do not begin reducing and eliminating their prescription drug coverage for Medicare eligible employees once Congress passes a Medicare prescription drug benefit. As such, I will vote in support for this bill.

However, the fact that the majority is bringing this bill up today highlights both the inadequacy of the prescription drug bill they passed last month, as well as undercuts their claim that they believe our nation's seniors deserve the same prescription drug coverage that Members of Congress and other employees covered under FEHBP receive.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad this legislation was brought to the floor today. I am glad that we can support good prescription drug coverage for federal retirees and I am glad that we can set an example for the private sector. I am also glad that the majority is willing to show just how truly disingenuous their rhetoric is about seniors deserving options similar to those of Members of Congress. If H.R. 1 truly provided a real prescription drug benefit, this legislation would not be necessary, and in that, Mr. Speaker, I take no pleasure.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the majority for proving to the Nation how insufficient the prescription drug bill is that they passed two weeks ago.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GERMAN
CENTRAL FOUNDATION AND THE
GERMAN CENTRAL FARM OF
PARMA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the German Central Foundation

and the German Central Farm of Parma, as they become one of ten statewide recipients to receive a Historical Marker from the State of Ohio Bicentennial Commission and Multicultural and Ethnic Community Advisory Counsel.

This significant marker stands as a monument to the German Central Farm—a place transformed over eight decades as a haven and vital resource for German immigrants. The marker at German Central Farm also represents the dedication, heart and soul of the German Central Foundation, reflecting the commitment of members and leaders—past and present—to preserve, protect and promote the many colorful facets of German heritage, culture and history.

The German Central Organization embodies the spirit of America—the pioneer spirit, the immigrant spirit and the spirit of diversity of all peoples from all cultures that is the foundation of our community, our state and our nation. The German Central Organization—like thousands of cultural organizations with ancestral ties that span the globe—reflects a journey toward freedom, a struggle from oppression and the blazing of a new trail in America.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in tribute and recognition of the German Central Foundation, as the German Central Farm is honored by the State of Ohio with a Historical Marker. This gathering place along York Road in Parma has been a source of heritage, comfort, resource and pride for several generations of German Americans. The cultivation and preservation of our varied places of origin is the earth of America—it is the origin of our nation. And as America has flourished, our roots remain viable—uniting us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NA-
TIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR
GAMES

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alice G. Hastings, Lt. Col. Gilbert L. Hernandez and the staff of the Long Beach Veterans Hospital for their hard work in planning and hosting the 23rd National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Long Beach, CA, last week.

The first games, held in 1981, brought 74 veterans to compete from 14 States. Today, these games have grown to become the largest annual wheelchair-sporting event in the world. Last year, over 480 athletes came from 44 States, Puerto Rico and Great Britain to compete.

Wheelchair sports began after World War II, as young disabled veterans began playing basketball in VA hospitals throughout the United States.

Interest soon spread to other sports and brought a sense of belonging and camaraderie to hundreds of veterans.

I want to thank all our veterans that participate in these games, both for the sacrifice they made for our country and for keeping us inspired to be the best we can be.

TOWN OF BLUFFTON

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, last night the Wabash River in northeastern Indiana crested at an incredible 25 feet. However, thanks to the extraordinary leadership of Mayor Ted Ellis and Sheriff Barry Story, Bluffton, IN, was spared a catastrophe.

Their leadership, in cooperation with Gov. Frank O'Bannon, and literally thousands of volunteers in Wells and Adams counties managed to stem the tide. Special commendation should go to Irving Material Incorporated and also to the Indiana National Guard's 2nd Battalion of the 151st Infantry. Under the leadership of General George Buskirk and Colonel Rick Shatto nearly 200 troops loaded and stacked sandbags and helped save the community of Bluffton, IN.

As more rain approaches, I urge the President to speed disaster relief to the counties in Indiana that the Governor has requested. I encourage the volunteers for their determination to move forward as the rain approaches and I urge prayers by all citizens to remember the cry of the Psalmist when he wrote, "God is our refuge and our strength, though the earth be removed, though its waters roar and be troubled, we will not fear."

FORTUNE MAGAZINE LISTS THE 50
BEST COMPANIES FOR MINORITIES

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I had the pleasure of reading in FORTUNE magazine a report by Jonathan Hickman of the 50 best companies for minorities. This important study identifies the increase in minority representation in the higher levels of major national and international corporations in terms of management positions, annual income, ownership in corporations, and leadership as exemplified by membership on corporate boards.

These figures represent an overall increase and upward mobility of African Americans, both male and female, in our economic system, which establishes that progress is being made. It corroborates the work of the Rainbow Push Wall Street Project which has annually brought together leaders from corporate America, the federal and state governments, and businessmen and women from the African American, Hispanic, and Asian American communities nationwide. Its founder Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr., has had in the annual national proceedings of Rainbow Push, a President of the United States, the Chairman of the Wall Street Stock Exchange, Richard A. Grasso, the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, Michael Powell, the Commissioner of Baseball, Bud Selig, and a wide variety of chief executive officers among whom can be found some of our most notable industrialists, manufacturers, wholesalers, food processors, bankers, leaders from the sports industry, heads of civil rights and human rights